

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-07 SSC-01 /078 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2468
INFO TREASURY WASHDC
USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 08625

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MX
SUBJECT: CABINET SHAKEUP RUMORED

1. RUMORS OF A CABINET SHAKEUP ARE CIRCULATING IN BOTH FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL CIRCLES HERE. RUMORS HAVE IT THAT SECRETARIES OF INTERIOR REYES HEROLLES, OF PROGRAMMING AND BUDGET TELLO, OF EDUCATION MUNOZ LEDO, AND OF PRI PRESIDENT SANSORES PEREZ (WHO, WHILE NOT GOM OFFICIAL, SERVES AT PRESIDENT'S PLEASURE) ARE ALL ON WAY OUT. ONE SOURCE SAID MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO US MARGAIN IS POSSIBLE NEW APPOINTMENT, PRESUMABLY IN TELLO'S SPOT. FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE SAID ROEL MIGHT REPLACE REYES.
2. COMMENT: RUMORS OF THIS KIND ARE OFTEN MORE RELIABLE AS GUIDE TO WHO IS COMING UNDER ATTACK WITHIN POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT THAN AS SIGNAL OF FUTURE PRESIDENTIAL ACTION (OR THEY REFLECT WISHFUL THINKING OF THE SOURCE). BUT WE OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENT ABOUT MEANING, SHOULD ANY CHANGES OCCUR:

- TELLO IS CONSIDERED A FISCAL LIBERAL, AND
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SHOULD MARGAIN, A FISCAL CONSERVATIVE,
REPLACE HIM, THE CHANGE WOULD HAVE CLEAR
ECONOMIC POLICY IMPLICATIONS. IT WOULD
SIGNIFY THE DOMINANT POSITION OF THE
RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE BANK OF MEXICO
GROUP WHO WISH GOM TO ADHERE MORE CLOSELY

TO "AUSTERITY" PROGRAM SUGGESTION BY IMF.

- - SANORES PEREZ AND REYES HEROLES ARE IN NATURALLY ANTAGONISTIC POSITIONS WHOSE PAST INCUMBENTS HAVE OFTEN CLASHED. FURTHERMORE, THESE TWO MEN ARE KNOWN TO DISLIKE EACH OTHER. WHILE REYES IS CONSIDERED AN INNOVATOR WHO FAVORS REGISTRATION OF
- MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (AS BEST MEANS OF CONTROLLING IT), HIS DEPARTURE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY PORTEND POLICY CHANGES. SANORES IS A TRADITIONAL POLITICAL CACIQUE CLOSE TO ECHEVERRIA BUT LACKING AN IDEOLOGICAL OUTLOOK.
- - MUNOZ LEDO IS BOTH AN ECHEVERRISTA AND LEFTIST WHOSE DEPARTURE WOULD BE DOUBLY GRATIFYING TO THE POLITICAL RIGHT. BECAUSE MUNOZ LEDO MORE THAN ANY OTHER CABINET OFFICER IS A SYMBOL OF THE ECHEVERRIA GOVERNMENT (TO BOTH ADMIRERS AND DETRACTORS), HIS OUSTER WOULD SUGGEST PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO IS CONFIDENT ENOUGH OF HIS POLITICAL POSITION TO RISK ANTAGONIZING THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S SUPPORTERS. CALDERHEAD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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